

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for compressing a stent having at least one protrusion, comprising:

a mandrel insertable into a lumen of the stent for holding the stent;

a protrusion compressor coupled to said mandrel proximate a proximal end thereof, said mandrel extending axially into said protrusion compressor and being rotatable relative to said protrusion compressor thereto;

a knob disposed on said mandrel proximate a proximal end thereof for retaining said protrusion compressor on said mandrel, said mandrel having a stent fixation zone with an outer diameter greater than an interior diameter of at least a portion of the lumen of the stent prior to installation of the stent on the mandrel and frictionally engaging the stent when the stent is placed on the mandrel over said stent retention zone to hold the stent on said mandrel and provide resistance to turning of the stent relative to said mandrel, said protrusion compressor being captured between said knob and said stent retention zone, said protrusion compressor having a tab extending therefrom towards said mandrel, said tab pressing the at least one protrusion of the stent inwardly toward the lumen of the stent when said mandrel is rotated relative to said protrusion compressor, said protrusion compressor having a hub with a grip portion with a hub and a collar, said hub having a sidewall bounding an axial hollow into which said mandrel extends, said collar coaxially received on said hub with said and having a tab extending therefrom at a distal end thereof, said tab having an inwardly directed surface facing a central axis of said collar, said collar moveable telescopically on said hub between a retracted position and a deployed position, said hub having a relief slot on an exterior surface of said sidewall external to said hollow, said relief slot having an outwardly directed surface facing away from a central axis of said hub, said relief slot formed in said sidewall proximate a distal end

~~thereof, said tab alignable with said relief slot positioned on said hub to align with said tab, such that said inwardly directed surface of said tab and said outwardly directed surface of said relief slot face each other with a spacing there between for accommodating a portion of the stent when said collar and tab are is in the deployed position, said tab capturing the at least one protrusion of the stent proximate a proximal end thereof between said inwardly directed surface of said tab and said outwardly directed surface of said relief slot, when said apparatus compresses the at least one protrusion~~ said apparatus compressing the at least one protrusion when said mandrel is rotated relative to said protrusion compressor while the stent is captured between said tab and said relief slot.

2. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said mandrel extends through said protrusion compressor coaxially.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of Claim 2, further comprising a knob disposed on an end of said mandrel to aid in turning said mandrel and for retaining said protrusion compressor on said mandrel wherein said grip portion has an enlarged diameter relative to an adjacent portion of said hub, said hub having a post portion with a diameter less than said hub and extending distally from said adjacent portion, said relief being provided on a side wall of said post portion, said collar having a stepped bore, with a first portion having a diameter approximating said adjacent portion of said hub and a second portion with a diameter approximating said post portion.~~

4. (Currently amended) ~~The apparatus of Claim 3, wherein said mandrel has a stent fixation zone with has an outer diameter approximating greater than the interior a diameter of at least a portion of the lumen of the stent prior to installation of the stent on the mandrel and frictionally engaging the stent when the stent is placed on the mandrel over the stent retention zone to hold the stent on the mandrel and provide resistance to turning of the stent relative to the mandrel when the mandrel is rotated~~ said post portion.

5. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein said mandrel has a tapered end leading to said stent retention zone, said tapered end aiding in inserting the mandrel into the lumen of the stent and sliding the stent on to the stent retention zone.

6. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein said protrusion compressor is captured between said knob and said stent retention zone.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 6 1, wherein said collar is restrained from rotating relative to said grip portion by a pin extending there through and into an elongated slot in said hub, said slot and pin constraining the collar to telescopic movement on said hub along a length of travel limited by said slot.

8. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said collar has a flange extending outwardly therefrom for a user to grip said collar to aid in deployment and retraction of said tab.

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for compressing a stent having at least one protrusion, comprising:

a mandrel insertable into a lumen of the stent for holding the stent;

a protrusion compressor coupled to said mandrel, said mandrel rotatable relative to said protrusion compressor, said protrusion compressor having a tab extending therefrom towards said mandrel, said tab pressing the at least one protrusion of the stent inwardly toward the lumen of the stent when said mandrel is rotated relative to said protrusion compressor, said mandrel extending through said protrusion compressor coaxially;

a knob disposed on an end of said mandrel to aid in turning said mandrel and for retaining said protrusion compressor on said mandrel, said mandrel having a stent fixation zone with an outer diameter greater than the interior diameter of at least a portion of the lumen of the stent prior to installation of the stent on the mandrel and frictionally engaging the stent when the stent is placed on the mandrel over the stent retention zone to hold the stent on the mandrel and provide resistance to turning of the stent relative to the mandrel when the mandrel is rotated, said protrusion compressor being captured between said knob and said stent retention

zone, said protrusion compressor having a hub with a grip portion and a hollow post portion with ~~a hub~~ and a collar, said collar coaxially received on said hub and having said tab extending therefrom at a distal end thereof, said tab having an inwardly directed surface facing a central axis of said collar, said collar restrained from rotating relative to said grip portion by a pin extending there through and into an elongated slot in said hub, said slot and pin constraining the collar to telescopic movement on said hub along a length of travel limited by said slot and defining a retracted position and a deployed position for said tab, said collar having a flange extending outwardly therefrom for a user to grip said collar to aid in deployment and retraction of said tab, ~~wherein said grip portion has a hollow post extending from said hub~~, said hollow post portion having a relief slot with an outwardly directed surface facing away from a central axis of said hub and formed on an exterior sidewall thereof distal to a hollow within said hollow post portion and proximate a distal end thereof, said relief slot positioned on said hollow post portion to align with said tab when said tab is in the deployed position, such that said inwardly directed surface of said tab and said outwardly directed surface of said relief slot face each other with a spacing there between for accomodating a portion of the stent, said tab capturing the at least ~~one protrusion of the stent proximate a proximal end thereof~~ between said inwardly directed surface of said tab and said outwardly directed surface of said relief slot when said apparatus compresses the at least one protrusion.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 9, further including a ball and detent interface disposed between said grip portion and said knob, said ball and detent interface controlling the relative rotation between said grip portion and said knob.

11. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the at least one protrusion of the stent is at least one enlarged coil disposed at an end of the stent, said apparatus pressing the enlarged coil inwardly by pushing said collar portion forward to the deployed position to capture said enlarged coil between said tab and said relief slot and turning the knob and the mandrel relative to said protrusion compressor.

12. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 11, further including a sleeve extending from said collar distal to said flange, said tab extending from said sleeve.

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for compressing a coiled stent with a lumen and having at least one external protuberance, comprising:

means for holding the stent via an interference fit, friction acting against the lumen of the stent to provide resistance to turning of the stent relative to said means for holding;

means for capturing the at least one external protuberance, including a tab with an inwardly directed surface and an opposable slot with an outwardly directed surface between which inwardly directed surface and said outwardly directed surface the at least one external protuberance can be captured, said means for capturing being rotatably coupled to said means for holding, such that relative rotation thereof compresses the at least one protuberance.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 13, further comprising,

means for gripping said means for holding the stent to aid in rotating said means for holding relative to said means for capturing.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 14, further comprising, means for gripping said means for capturing the stent.